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# SCIENCE

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## THE SCOPE AND RELATIONS OF TAXONOMIC BOTANY<sup>1</sup>

IN his famous work, "Philosophia Botanica," Linnæus, in accord with his fondness for system in all things, classifies the authors that have dealt with botany and allied subjects. He first divides botanical writers into two groups, true botanists, and botanophils or lovers of botany. The botanists are again divided and subdivided with much detail into numerous groups. The botanophils consist of four groups, the anatomists, the gardeners, the writers upon medicine, and lastly a miscellaneous group including those who write upon plants from the standpoint of economics, panegyrics, theology or poetry. It is clear from this classification that among those who concerned themselves with plants the systematic botanists held the dominating position. They were the real botanists, the others were only botanophils. Among the latter were the few anatomists and physiologists such as Malpighi, Grew and Hales. It is true that Linnæus has, as a subdivision under the true botanists, the heading physiologists, but he defines these as those who reveal the laws of vegetable growth and the mystery of sex in plants. This disposition of the physiologists was no doubt influenced by Linnæus's own interest in sexuality in plants. In this connection it should be noted that the great classifier places Hales, the physiologist, among the botanophils and not among the botanists. For a century more the botanical

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

<sup>1</sup> Address of the retiring president of the Botanical Society of America, Columbus, December 29, 1915.